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West. Europe, [REDACTED], Int. Organizations

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STAFF NOTES:

Western Europe

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International Organizations

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WESTERN EUROPE - [REDACTED] - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

CONTENTS

Soviet Concern Over North Sea Oil Installations	1
Cyprus Cituation Report	2

January 20, 1975

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Soviet Concern Over North Sea Oil Installations

The Soviet Ambassador in Oslo has told Foreign Minister Frydenlund that Moscow is concerned over the possibility that Oslo may rescind its policy that foreign troops should not be stationed on Norwegian soil in peace time.

The Soviets are reacting to growing concern in Western Europe over how to defend the vulnerable North Sea oil installations. The Soviets are afraid that Norway will allow NATO troops into northern Norway, which is close to the Soviet border.

The Norwegians have assured the Soviets that they are not contemplating any change in their long held position on foreign troops. Although the Norwegians are currently exploring various possibilities for the defense of their offshore oil rigs, they are not likely to go so far as to invite or permit foreign troops to defend the area. (Confidential)

January 20, 1975

-1-

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Cyprus Situation Report

The situation was calm in Cyprus tonight following a late-morning clash between demonstrators and national guardsmen outside the USIS library in Nicosia. A group of some 2,000 demonstrators broke away from a larger crowd assembled nearby to protest the evacuation of Turkish Cypriot refugees from the British base at Akrotiri and assaulted the library. The national guardsmen used water hoses, tear gas, and fired over the heads of demonstrators to drive them back. Just as it appeared that the guardsmen might lose control, President Makarios arrived on the scene and calmed the crowd. The demonstrators followed Makarios to the front of the Greek embassy where he called for an end to violent demonstrations but also reaffirmed his demand that Greek Cypriot refugees be allowed to return to their homes in the Turkish Cypriot sector of the island. The crowd then dispersed but a smaller group continued to mill around near the library which suffered only slight damage and was not entered.

Police broke up demonstrations earlier in the day as they formed in various parts of the city. The embassy is presently guarded by some 280 police and national guardsmen. Barricades have been erected to guard the approaches to the embassy compound. Embassy officials noted today that the government's security forces are better organized than they were January 18 and appear to have firm instructions to maintain order. The embassy received repeated assurances from high government officials today that the government is determined to provide full protection for the embassy.

The evacuation of Turkish Cypriot refugees from Akrotiri air base is apparently continuing today without any major problems.

Representatives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities met again today to continue their talks on substantive political questions. (Secret)

January 20, 1975

-2-

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